



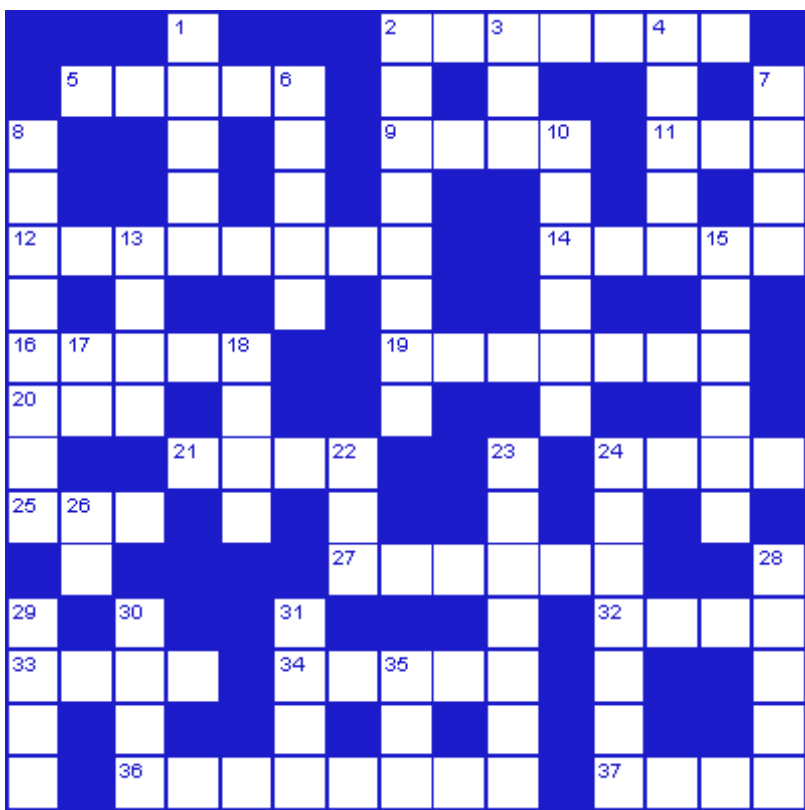
Hello!! Welcome to the third issue of *Animals & Us*. Kids all across Canada are reading this newspaper. Visit our web site at <http://www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us> for the online version. Let us know what you think. We want to hear from you. You can write to the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies at 30 Concourse Gate, Suite 102 Nepean, ON, K2E 7V7 or e-mail to animals&us@cfhs.ca.

What Do YOU Want for Christmas?

Is a dog or cat at the top of your Christmas list? Why not a horse? Well the truth of the matter is, you don't want any real animal on your Christmas list.

Think about it from the animal's point of view. Think of all the excitement Christmas morning. Think of all the holiday visitors. What would a new puppy or kitten think of these strange goings-on? A new place is scary enough without all the extra commotion!

If your parents have agreed and the whole family wants a pet, wait until after the holidays. Tell your parents you don't want a pet for Christmas. Ask for a book or video about your favourite animal instead.



Answers on p. 4

Across

2. Where a frog sits?
5. How fish breathe. (See p. 3)
9. Animal that is a good indicator of the health of the environment.
11. A dessert made with pastry.
12. These help us recognize individual animals. (See p. 2)
14. A male turkey has one of these on his breast. (See p. 1)
16. A horse's bedroom.
19. Reindeer have these. (See p. 3)
20. Male turkey. (See p. 1)
21. What you wash with.
24. An angry cat waves this. (See p. 2)
25. What cows and other ruminants chew over again. (See p. 3)
27. Don't use cosmetics ____ on animals. (See p. 4)
32. Sound a contented cat makes. (See p. 2)
33. ____ animals by speaking up for them.
34. Something dogs like to do. (See p. 2)
36. What cats use to feel their way in the dark. (See p. 3)
37. One of the things animals use to communicate with. (See p. 2)

Down

1. Quickly close and open your eye.
2. How long an animal lives. (See p. 3)
3. Horoscope lion.
4. Top animal in a herd or pack. (See p. 2)
6. Smell.
7. A social organization of animals. (See p. 2)
8. Describes an animal tamed for generations. (See p. 4)
10. A sound male turkeys make. (See p. 1)
13. Don't let your dog or cat do this.
15. Country with the largest reindeer herds. (See p. 3)
17. The opposite of *from*.
18. The best way to enjoy wildlife.
22. An animal kept as a friend. (See p. 1)
23. Part of a horse where the neck joins the back. (See p. 2)
24. What a frog hatches as. (See p. 3)
26. Stand __ for animals. (See p. 4)
28. What animals graze on.
29. Stop!
30. Birds and cats both have more than one.
31. A lake ____ over when it freezes.
35. How long an animal has lived.

Turkey Talk

Thanksgiving through Christmas is a bad time of year for turkeys!!

What do you know about turkeys other than the fact they taste good?

Wild turkeys are native to North America. Turkeys were first domesticated by the Incas and Mayans 2000 years ago. In the 16th century, Spanish conquistadors who visited what is now Mexico took some of these domesticated turkeys back to Europe. Before that, turkeys were only found in North America. Domestic turkeys are descended from the birds taken to Europe and then brought back by settlers. Talk about time travellers!

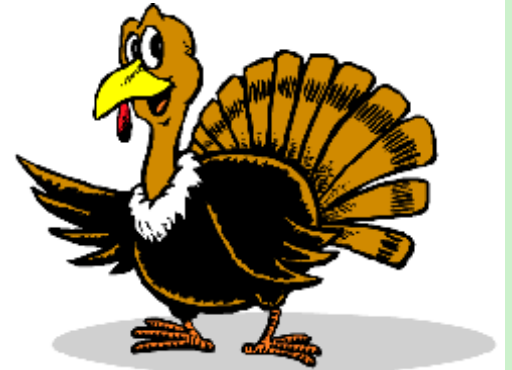
Wild turkeys were almost made extinct by overhunting. Now they have been returned to much of the USA and southern Ontario due to the efforts of groups who want to hunt them again.

Wild turkeys are very agile birds. Domestic turkeys have been bred to be so heavy they can hardly move at all, but wild turkeys can run and fly. They can reach speeds up to 50 kph. The home range of wild turkeys can be 1000 miles or more! They eat lots of different things including grass, seeds, acorns and insects. Altogether, they eat over 600 different species of plant and animal life. No one can say turkeys are fussy eaters!

A male turkey is called a tom, a female is a hen. Only the male turkey makes the gobbling sound. A male eastern wild turkey, the species you'll see in eastern Canada, can be four feet tall and weigh more than 10 kilograms. They have long tail feathers they can fan out, but their heads and necks are practically naked. Instead of feathers on their heads, they have hair-like bristles. Toms also have long hair-like beards on their chests. Wild turkeys are very colourful birds. Modern domestic turkeys are white.

We only think of turkeys gobbling, but actually wild turkeys make over 28 different sounds communicating with each other. A hen even calls to her poults, as turkey chicks are called, before they hatch from their eggs.

As you can see, turkeys are more than just dinner. This Christmas, give a thought to the turkey.

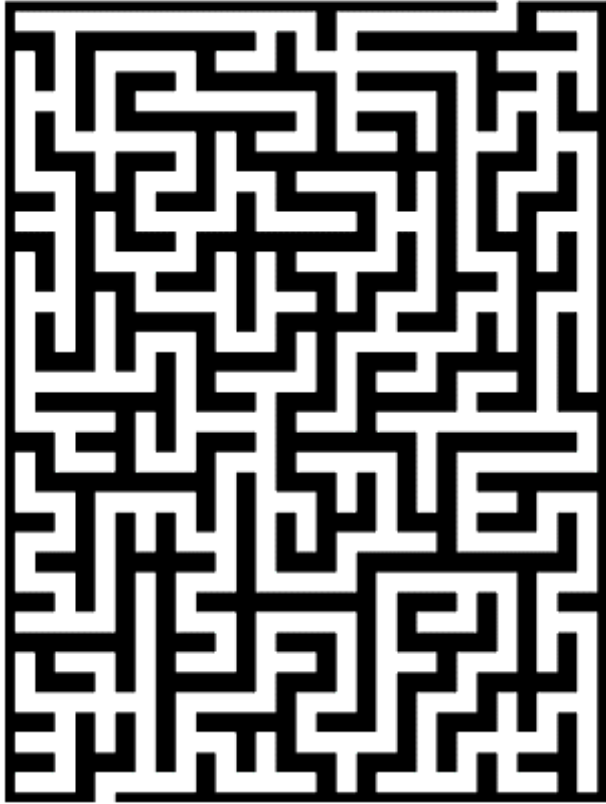


Q Why do bees hum?

A Because they've forgotten the words.

Do you have an animal riddle or joke to share?
E-mail it to animals&us@cfhs.ca

Armed with a pooper-scooper bag, Jason and Scout are on their way to Jody's house. Can you show them the way?



Take a Close Look

People often have unique colourings or markings on their bodies. Maybe you have freckles across your nose and cheeks. Maybe you have a mole on your cheek or arm. Maybe you have an eye that is a different colour than your other one. Many people have "birthmarks" when they are young. These may or may not fade as they grow older.

We each have things that make us unique. These are the things that enable others to recognize us as who we are, even in a crowd of a million people.

Many animals look so much like others of the same breed that it is hard to tell them apart. However, they too have markings on their bodies that make them unique. Notice your pet's specific colour

patterns on his or her face, head, chest, belly, back, legs, tail and feet.

Go and be with your animal. Look closely at each part of him or her. Notice all the little details that make your pet unique or different. What face markings does your pet have? What colour is his or her left eye? right eye? Does your pet have any unusual coat markings on his or her neck, sides, back, belly or tail?

Draw a picture of your pet. Be sure to include the correct markings on his face, back, tail, each leg, the colour of his or her feet, eyes, and any other unusual markings.

Adapted with permission from Me & My Cat: A Child's Journal of Self-Discovery Through a Relationship with a Cat



Like Dogs and Cats

Has your mother ever told you and your brother or sister to stop fighting like dogs and cats? Why would dogs and cats fight? Maybe they don't understand each other.

Dogs have a chase instinct. If something runs, they chase it. Have you ever noticed that dogs don't chase cats who stop and turn sideways towards them?

What does a cat mean when he flattens his ears? Right. He's angry and ready for a fight. What does a dog mean? He's saying OK, I give in. You're boss.

What does a dog mean when he wags his tail? What does a cat mean? The dog is happy and the cat is angry. No wonder they don't understand each other!

Despite their differences, dogs and cats can be very good friends with your help. First of all, never encourage your dog to chase cats. Make sure your cat has somewhere he can go for peace and quiet. Cats like high resting spots where they can look down on earthbound dogs. You can also feed your cat up high so the dog won't steal his food.

Keep cat toys away from your dog. The little plastic balls with bells in them are great fun for cats, but dangerous for dogs. One bite from your dog and you have sharp points and a loose bell for him to choke on.

Two's a Herd

Most domestic animals naturally live in groups just like us. They're used to following rules to get along with others. That is why they accept people's rules.

Horses are herd animals. They live in a group and have a very strong social order. One horse is boss or alpha and all the others have their places. When horses have lived together for a while, they don't squabble as long as they have enough food and space.

If you watch horses carefully, you'll see them talk to each other with body language. A flick of the ear and a look is enough to say "Back off." When a new horse joins the herd, though, they will fight to figure out where he belongs in the "pecking order."

Horse people know not to put a strange horse in an existing herd. First, they put the new horse in his own corral next to the others. After they get to know each other over the fence for a few days, it's safe to turn them out together in a large area.

Horses have special friends. In a large herd, horses graze in small groups. Often you'll see two horses "mutual grooming." They stand head to tail scratching each other. One nibbles at the base of his friend's tail. The other nibbles at his friend's withers at the base of the neck. When you're riding your horse and you want to tell him he's been good, give him a scratch on the withers. He'll like that more than a slap on the neck.

Because horses are herd animals, they need company. One horse living alone is a sad animal. Owning one horse is a big responsibility. Owning two is huge! That's one reason for keeping your horse in a boarding stable. Then the horse can have company but you only have one horse to take care of.

Q Why don't dogs make good dancers?
A Because they have two left feet!

Q How is cat food sold?
A Usually purr can!

Quick Fact 1

Animals don't have to see or hear each other to communicate. They also communicate with each other by giving off chemicals called pheromones.

Did You Know?

Quick Fact 2

An insect's skeleton is on the outside of its body.

Quick Fact 3

A turtle's backbone and ribs are fused to the inside of the shell.

How Old is Old?

People live a long time. According to Statistics Canada, the government agency that collects all the numbers, the average Canadian lives to be 77 to 78 years old. Of course, that's an average, and many people live much longer than that. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the oldest person on record lived to be 122 years old.

The number of years an animal normally lives is called its life span. The average pet dog lives between 10 and 15 years. The average house cat lives for 14 to 17 years.

So how old is old?

We think of people going through stages of life. First you're a baby, then a toddler, a child, a preteen, a teenager or adolescent, a young adult, an adult, then middle-aged and finally, elderly. Are you a preteen or a teenager?

Have you ever heard that one year of a dog's life is equal to seven human years? A better way to compare is by the life stages.

For the first two or three weeks, puppies and kittens are helpless babies. Then they become like toddlers. They still need their mothers to feed them, but they're more independent. By the time they're ten weeks old, they are fully weaned and don't need milk anymore. We could compare them to children.

From six months to 18 months, we could consider dogs and cats as teenagers. This is the time pets need a spay or neuter operation to make sure they don't have puppies or kittens. A two-year-old dog or cat is an adult.

By the time they are six, dogs and cats are middle-aged like people in their forties.

As a rule, large dogs don't live as long as small ones. Large dogs are considered elderly from the time they're nine, while cats and most small dogs aren't elderly until they're 12 or 13.

Quick Fact 4

A cat's whiskers, or vibrissae, are sensitive to the slightest touch. In very dim light, a cat may feel her way by using her whiskers.

How old is your dog in human years?

If he's over two years old, you can use a formula to find out.

For a small dog, two is the equivalent of 24 in a person. Add four for every year your dog is older than two.

So if your little dog is five-years-old, that's $24+4+4+4$ or 36 in human years.

For a large dog, start with 19 and add seven for every year. A large five-year-old dog would be $19+7+7+7$ or 40 human years.

Cats live about the same as small dogs so you can use the small dog formula for cats. How old would a four-year-old cat be in human years? $(24+4+4)$ A ten-year-old cat?



Frog Facts

When you get to high school, your biology class might dissect a frog. Many people believe that it's not right to kill animals just so we can look at them. Isn't it better to learn about living animals? What do you think?



Frogs are fascinating animals. Imagine starting out life like a fish and ending up a frog! Like their relatives the salamanders, frogs are amphibians. They hatch as tadpoles with gills and live like fish underwater. But then they change into adults with lungs and live on land.

Five families of frogs are found in Canada.

Toads, true frogs and tree frogs live in many different parts of the country. These are the frogs you've probably seen and heard. When you do see frogs, please leave them alone. Don't catch tadpoles or frogs. Watch out for frogs when you're mowing the lawn! Compared to frogs, people are big and powerful. It's your decision whether you harm a frog or do the right thing and leave it alone to live its own life.

The other two frog families are not so common. Tailed frogs are found only in southern British Columbia. Spadefoots are also found in western Canada. They have back feet that are made for burrowing into the ground.

Scientists think frogs and other amphibians can tell us a lot about the health of the environment. Because they breathe through their skin, they may be more affected by pollution. Also, they live first as water creatures and then as land animals so they are affected by what's happening in both environments.

You can see pictures of all these frogs at the **Frog Watch** site of the Canadian Nature Federation. Next spring, you can take part in their Frog Watch program and help find out what's happening to frogs and the environment.

For some fun facts about frogs, visit **The Somewhat Amusing World of Frogs** web site. And be sure to take part in the **Case of the Disappearing Frogs**. To get to these web sites, go to <http://www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us> and jump from there.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer - Not

Reindeer don't fly and reindeer don't have red noses but in some parts of the world they do pull sleighs.

Reindeer and their close relatives the caribou live in the northern areas of the world. Reindeer are found in northern Russia, Sweden and Lapland. Caribou live in northern Canada and Alaska. They all belong to the species *Rangifer tarandus*.

Caribou and reindeer are a species of the deer family along with moose, elk, white-tailed deer and mule deer. They have cloven hooves and chew their cuds just as domestic cattle do. Caribou are unusual because both males and females have antlers. In the other deer species, only the males carry antlers.

Canadian caribou are wild animals. The native people hunt and kill them for food, but they haven't domesticated them. The people of northern Europe did domesticate reindeer much the

way horses or cattle were domesticated in other parts of the world.

The native people there depend on reindeer for food, clothing and transportation. The largest herds of domestic reindeer are in Russia. There are also big herds in Scandinavia. In Finnish Lapland, there are more reindeer than people!

There is even a breed of dog developed to herd reindeer. The Reindeer Herder is registered in the Finland Kennel Club. To see pictures, you can visit the web site of the Society for the Original Reindeer Herder.

If you'd like to know more about people who actually do use reindeer to pull sleighs, you can read about the Nenets people of Northern Russia.

To go to these web sites, you can go to **Animals & Us** online at <http://www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us> and jump from there.

Leaping Logo

None of us who care about animals want to use cosmetics or household products that have been tested on them. Sometimes, though, it's hard to tell whether a product is safe.



Now there's a logo you can look for. If you see this rabbit logo on a product, it means no animals were used in testing or developing it.

The logo was developed by the Canadian Standard of Compassion for Animals. Companies undergo rigid inspection before they can use the logo.

Wild Relatives

Thousands of years ago, our ancestors started to domesticate animals. They took control of them and by carefully breeding only animals with certain traits, turned them into animals useful for people.

Today's domestic animals depend on people. They can't survive on their own. However, they still share characteristics with their wild cousins. Learning about the behaviour of wild animals can help us understand and look after our domestic animals.

Look in the library for books about wild animals. Reading about the ancestors of your cat, dog or other pet can help you be a better pet owner.

Can you match the domestic animal with its wild ancestor? Some are easy to tell. Others you may have to look up in an encyclopedia.

Your Turn

What do you think is the best way for kids to help animals?

Write your answer to this question and send it to **Animals & Us**. You could see your name in print!

You can e-mail your answer to animals&us@cfhs.ca or you can go to the web site <http://www.cfhs.ca/Animals&Us> and write your answer there. You can also mail your answer to the CFHS office. The address is on the front page. Be sure to give your name and city.

Here's what kids had to say about last issue's question.

What is your favourite animal and why?

I don't have a favorite animal. It's probably a tie between dogs and cats since I have a few of both and they are both fun to do things with. Like the cats are good for cuddling with and the dogs are fun for running around with and playing ball with.

Max

Horses! because they give us so much love.
Stephanie, Nova Scotia

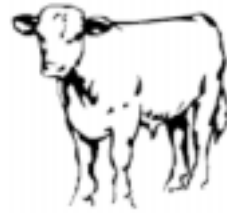
My favourite animal is a rabbit.
Alexandra, London, Ontario

The best kind of animals are dogs and horses. The best breed of dog is a heinz 57. The best breed of horse is any horse you come across. Why, because my family had this dog for 18 years. All horses because they are so great.

Mitchell

Tracy of Campbell River, British Columbia wrote

My dog Klyde does the craziest thing ever! When we let him outside, after a while he howls because he wants in. Whenever he is ignored you can hear scratching nails on the door then a pause. What is really going on, is he is licking the window, then wiping it with his paws. That's right, my dog washes windows!!!



Draw a line from the domestic animal on the left to the wild animal it came from. Two of the wild ancestors are extinct. Which two?

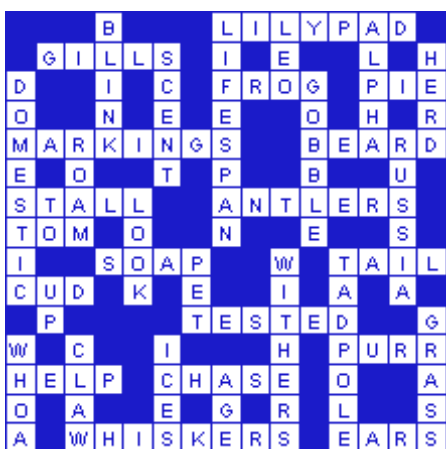
Domestic Animal

Dog
Cat
Horse
Rabbit
Goat
Sheep
Pig
Chicken
Cow
Guinea pig

Wild Ancestor

Auroch
Asian jungle fowl
Mouflon
Wild boar
Cavie
Tarpan
Wolf
European wild rabbit
Pasang
African wildcat

Answers



Match the Wild Ancestor

Dogs are descended from *wolves*.

Domestic *cats* are believed to be descended from the *African wildcat*.

Horses are descended from *Tarpan*s and other species. Different species of wild horse were domesticated in different parts of the world. All the ancestors are extinct. Domestic *rabbits* come from the *European wild rabbit*. Domestic *goats* are descended from the *Pasang* or Bezoar goat.

Sheep come from *mouflons*.

Domestic *pigs* descended from the *wild boar*.

Chickens come from the *Asian jungle fowl*.

Cows are descended from *aurochs*. Aurochs are extinct.

Domestic *guinea pigs* come from wild *cavies*.

UP for Animals

Bone UP

- ✓ Learn all you can about animals.

Speak UP

- ✓ Let other people know how you feel about animals.
- ✓ Teach younger children about animals.

Stand UP

- ✓ Be a model pet owner.
- ✓ Do everything you can to protect animals and the environment.
- ✓ Don't litter.
- ✓ Don't shop at stores that sell live animals.
- ✓ Offer to walk a dog.
- ✓ Keep a watchful eye on any classroom pets in your school.
- ✓ Leave wild animals alone.

Sign UP

- ✓ Join an animal club.

Turn UP

- ✓ Attend club meetings.
- ✓ Take part in events that help animals.

Ante UP

- ✓ Raise money for your local SPCA or humane society.



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For references, please see teacher's notes.